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SOURCE Soviet newspapers as indicated.

PEAT PRODUCTION INCREASES

BELORUSSIAN PEAT INDUSTRY EXPANDS -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 39,
23 Feb 49

In a speech at the 19th Congress of KP(b) of Belorussia V. Ya. Vlasov, Minister of Local Fuel Industry Belorussian SSR reported the following:

During 1948, the output of peat increased 16.5 percent over the prewar level, but despite this, Belorussian peat requirements have not been fully satisfied.

Peat-cutting machinery has become more efficient. Peat enterprises now have over 200 kilometers of narrow-gauge railroads at their disposal, as well as hundreds of railroad cars, a large number of depots, and about 50 locomotives. Loading cranes and transporters have been put into use. Many processes in the peat mining industry have been mechanized.

The reconstructed plant for peat machine building in Gomel' has started production of modern peat machinery: dredge-elevator cars, hydraulic elevator cars, peat transport cars, containers, and other necessary equipment for the peat industry.

Also, the production of insulation slabs out of peat is developing; in 1949, it was almost doubled over that of 1940.

Construction of the large Smolevichi peat briquette plant has started. According to the Five-Year Plan, this plant is to be put into operation in 1950. However, the supply of funds and power for this construction project is inadequate, which makes it doubtful that the plant will be completed on schedule.

The 1948 peat-cutting plan was fulfilled 101.5 percent, labor efficiency increased 28 percent over 1947. The enterprises of Beltorfrest (Belorussian Peat Trust) saved about 4 million rubles in 1948, the enterprises of the Peat

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Construction Trust, about 100 million rubles, and the "Dvigatel' revolyutsii" Plant, over 600,000 rubles.

Although the over-all production plan of the Ministry was fulfilled in 1948, all of the enterprises did not meet their quotas. The large "Osintorf" Peat Enterprise, and "Gonoles," "Novaya Mysh'" and enterprises of Grodno, Brest, and other oblast fuel administrations failed to complete their production plans.

The 1949 plan provides for a 19-percent increase in peat output over 1948, a 15-percent increase in labor efficiency, an 11-percent lowering of production costs, and a 79-percent mechanization of peat cutting by Republic enterprises.

LITHUANIAN PEAT MINING MECHANIZED -- Pravda, No 78, 19 Mar 49

The "Belaya Vaka" and "Margay" Peat Enterprises have received the first two powerful steam-driven hoist dredges, new caterpillar tractors, and other machines. Enterprises of the Vil'nyus fuel industry plan to triple the production of peat.

LENINGRAD PEAT SEASON BEGINS -- Pravda, No 98, 8 Apr 49

The peat-cutting season has started for Leningrad Oblast peat enterprises. The "Naziya," "Sinyavino II," and "Kobrin" enterprises have completely mechanized cutting operations. Loading and unloading have also been mechanized.

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